Master of Accountancy

Standards
The objective of the Masters of Science in Accountancy program is to prepare accounting students for management positions in accounting. The program will build on the knowledge and tools from the students’ undergraduate education allowing them to achieve a greater degree of sophistication in accounting and auditing. This will provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to have successful careers in public and private accounting. The program will:

- strengthen students’ theoretical foundation in multiple areas of accounting and auditing,
- expand the students’ critical thinking and research skills in accounting, auditing, and business,
- develop the students’ oral and written communication skills,
- aid the student in developing interpersonal skills such as leadership and teamwork,
- enhance students’ understanding of ethical and professional issues in accounting and auditing, and their ability to respond to ethical dilemmas in the profession, and
- fulfill the 150-hour requirement for professional certification as a public accountant in Massachusetts and several other states.

This program would enable students to satisfy the requirements to become a Certified Public Accountant in Massachusetts, pending program approval from the Massachusetts State Board of Accountancy. Students would also be better prepared for examinations required for Certified Management Accountant, the Certified internal Auditor, or the Certified Fraud Examiner designations.

Assessment Plan

Comprehensive Examination
The candidate for the Masters of Science in Accountancy will have to successfully complete a comprehensive examination in their last semester, as noted above. The comprehensive examination will test the candidate’s knowledge in the four subject areas of the Certified Public Accountancy Examination including Financial Accounting and Reporting, Auditing and Attestation, Business Environment and Concepts, and Regulation. Test questions for this 4-hour examination are prepared by faculty teaching in the program, and will be modeled after the content of the actual CPA examination. Student narrative responses are graded as pass/fail by three separate readers. Quantitative responses are graded by two members of faculty to assure inter-rater reliability. The passing of this examination will be used as a pre-masters outcome measure. Tracking and recording the success of graduates on the CPA examination will also provide one indicator of program effectiveness.

Course-Specific Learning Outcomes
Specific learning objectives by course are detailed in Appendix A.
Advisory Board
To assure program currency, an external advisory board will be established during the first year of operation. Members of the Advisory Board will include a minimum of three individuals invited from agencies and firms where CPAs work. At least two individuals on the Board must have the CPA credential. The Program Coordinator will facilitate an annual meeting of the Advisory Board (approximately May of each year), where an annual report of the program, produced by the Program Coordinator, will be reviewed and recommendations given.